

COMPASS TEST INFORMATION

Do you have questions about your math placement on the COMPASS test?

The following pages outline the content of the three precollege math classes:

MATH 075: Pre-Algebra

MATH 085: Elements of Algebra

MATH 095: Intermediate Algebra

Starting in Fall 2010, all three classes will use the same textbook, *Elementary and Intermediate Algebra: Functions & Authentic Applications* by Jay Lehmann. You may want to look at the text in the bookstore or on reserve in the library for additional clarifications on the content of each course.

I think I placed too low on the COMPASS, what are my options?

- You may want to consider taking a refresher course during prefall term (September 7 – 17, 2010). These courses will review math content to help you to retake the COMPASS test and place higher. You would want to enroll in the refresher course that matches your current placement.
- You can retake the COMPASS test and attempt to place higher. You may want to do some self-study on websites like khanacademy.org or purplemath.com. Also, practice test questions for the COMPASS test are available on <http://www.compass-test-practice.com/>.

I think I placed too high on the COMPASS – what are my options?

- You could take a refresher course during prefall term (September 7-17, 2010) in order to build your confidence and skills to be successful in your current placement. You would want to enroll in the refresher course that is one level below your current placement.
- You are allowed to take a class lower than your COMPASS test placement if you feel it is more appropriate. Do recognize, however, that this will add time and cost towards the process of completing your math requirement.

What are some tips for successfully completing my math requirement?

- *Math is like a foreign language – use it or lose it.* Plan to complete your math courses in sequential quarters so that you don't forget things along the way.
- *Don't put it off until the last minute.* Avoiding the math requirement won't make it go away, but rather will cause greater anxiety and put increased pressure on the situation when you do take it.
- *Consider taking a class that meets three or four days a week.* Students report that taking math classes that meet more frequently makes the subject matter more manageable to learn and gives increased opportunities for asking questions.
- *Use your resources.* Cascadia offers free tutoring on-campus through the Math and Writing Center or online through SMARTHINKING. Students who initiate study groups and access their instructors for extra help are more successful in their classes.



If you have additional questions or wish to meet with a math faculty member, please contact Megan Luce via email at mluce@cascadia.edu.